

International Conference: Migration, Work And Space

A joint Turkish-German conference of
MAYA (Mersin), **GAR** (Turkey) and **IMIS** (Osnabrück University, Germany)

Mersin, 13 to 15 September 2019

Since the beginning of the war in Syria in 2011, many refugees have found their way to Turkey and Germany in order to escape the conflict. While both have been countries of immigration before, the scale has changed with 3.6 million registered Syrians now living in Turkey and 770,000 in Germany. Moreover, people from other countries have moved to both countries as well, e.g. from Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran or Somalia. Their situation in their new – permanent or non-permanent – homes is the outcome of many interrelating laws and regulations, practices and discourses involving different state and non-state actors that form constantly evolving migration and border regimes, in which migrants themselves are active participants. They are intertwined with two important aspects of their everyday lives: finding access to the national/local labor markets in order to secure their lives and making use of the space in urban and rural settings. During our meeting in Mersin, we would like to discuss these two aspects and the role they play in the lives of migrants in Turkey and Germany.

During our sessions on “Migration & Labor”, we will focus on practices, discourses and relations of labor and migration in Turkey and Germany: What possibilities to work are available for migrants? What are the working conditions in the field and what power relations are at play in the process? What effects do the current migration and border regimes in Turkey and in Germany have on the access to labor? What role do gender and sexual orientation play in this respect? What experiences of racism do migrants make? What strategies do they apply in order to ensure their survival/living? What practices of solidarity and what possible tensions do arise? What similarities and differences can be observed comparing the situation in Turkey and Germany?

Our third session will focus on “Migration & Space”: How is the production of space influenced by the settlement of migrant populations and how can we trace its signs on the urban fabric of Turkish and German cities? What new practices and discourses concerning the usage of space have emerged, what new relationships and possible conflicts? How do strategies to govern migration play into the production of space? What are the differences and similarities between Turkey and Germany in this respect?



12:00	Dr. Johanna Neuhauser:	A materialist-feminist perspective on labour segmentation
12:15	Ass. Prof. Dr. Çağla Ünlütürk Ulutaş	The most invisible of the invisibles: Female Syrian labour force in a global factory city
12:30	Discussion	Moderation: Philipp Ratfisch

13:00 Lunch break Lunch at Kültürhane

3rd session: Migration & Space

14:00	Dr. Bediz Yılmaz:	A spatial account of Mersin through its history of migrations
14:15	Samia Dinkelaker:	Fractured safer spaces: Protection of refugee women* at the intersections of gender and border regimes
14:30	Dr. Cavidan Soykan	The meaning of borders: Racial gender-based hierarchy set up within the cities
14:45	Dr. Mustafa Kahveci	Housing discrimination among Syrian refugees in Istanbul
15:00	Discussion	Moderation: Helen Schwenken

15:30 Tea break

4th Session: Migration & In/Exclusions

16:00	Prof. Dr. Helen Schwenken:	What does the German labour bureaucracy think about refugee women?
16:15	Dr. Ülkü Güney:	Refugees as space invaders: Racialising discourses in Bolu
16:30	Dr. Lisa Carstensen:	Racism, labour migration and unfree labor: Towards an analytical framework
16:45	Dr. Helge Schwiertz:	Transnational solidarity, citizenship and migration
17:00	Discussion	Didem Daniş

Closing remarks

17:30 Dr. Bediz Yılmaz, Prof. Dr. Helen Schwenken, Dr. Didem Daniş, Philipp Ratfisch (until 18:00)

19:00 Dinner together

Sunday, 15 September

10:00 Excursion in Mersin, visiting locations that have been marked by migration(s) and meeting civil society actors

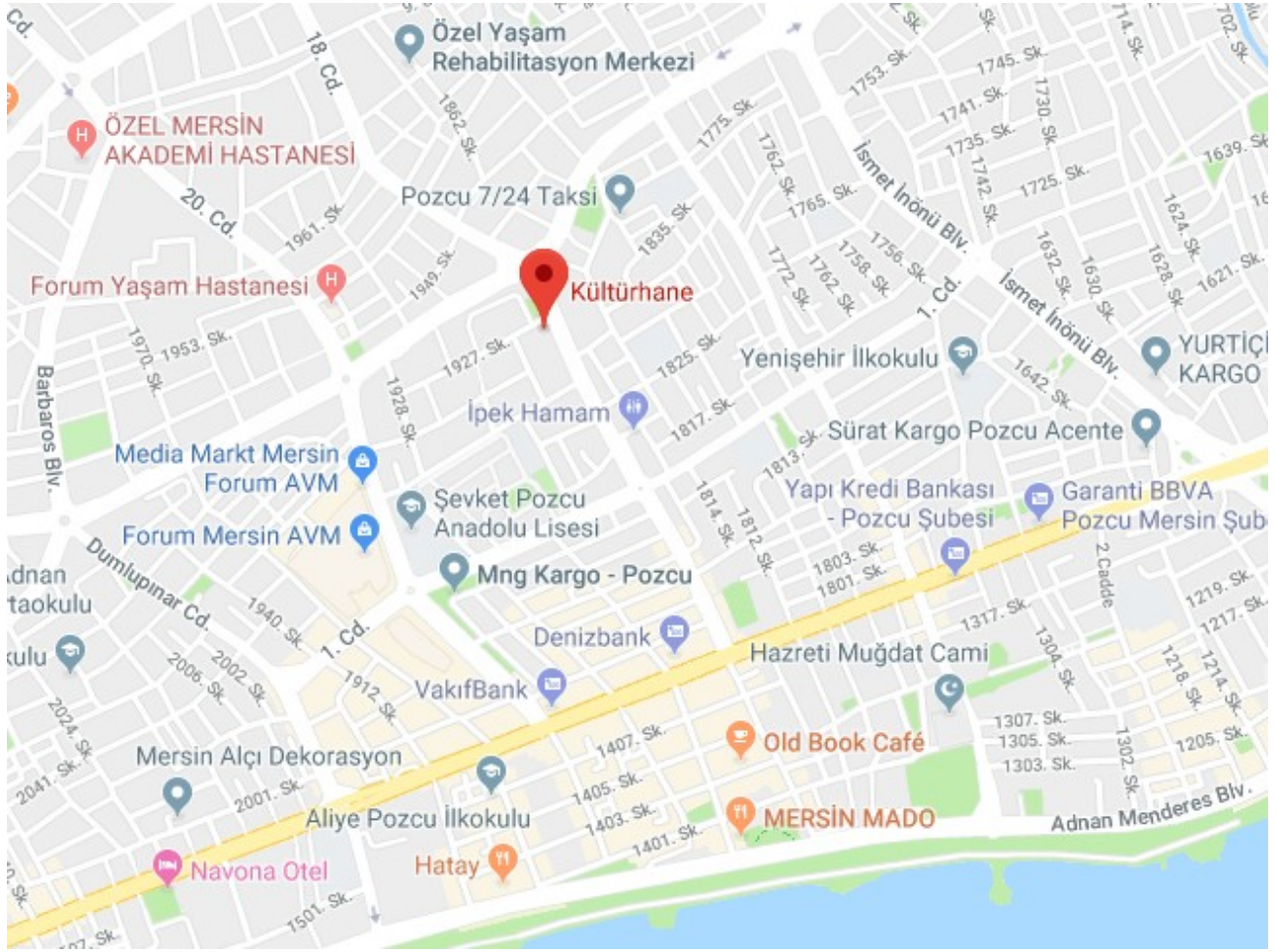
13:30 Lunch break

14:30 Excursion to Adanalıoğlu and Tarsus, meeting migrants working in the agricultural sector and related actors

19:00 Dinner together and goodbye

Event Location

The inputs and discussions on Saturday will take place at [Kültürhane](#) cultural and social centre. It is located at Güvenciler Mahallesi 18. Caddesi Düzgün Sitesi C Blok Zemin Kat Yenişehir, 33030 Mersin.



Institutions involved



MAYA (Association of Education, Culture, Research, Mutual Aid and Solidarity of Mersin) has its foundations in the activities of a group of individuals who have come together in summer 2015 to be in solidarity with the Syrian migrants in Mersin ($\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the city's total population, nearly 300,000) and to work for the peaceful coexistence of different populations in this highly multicultural city. This group has been mostly working with the migrants inhabiting the irregular camp settlements formed by the agricultural workers in the Adanalıoğlu and Huzurkent districts in the east of the city. In cooperation with the district municipality, MAYA established education support programs destined towards the children of agricultural workers who could not access schools because of language and transportation problems. In total, 250 children benefited from these programs. MAYA volunteers also worked for the betterment of living conditions in these camp settlements. Through these relations MAYA became the principal witness of the living and working conditions of agricultural workers in that isolated zone, the slavery-like conditions are known, documented and fought against by neither the state administration nor the local communities.



Göç Araştırmaları Derneği (GAR – Association of Migration Research) is a non-governmental organization based in Istanbul. GAR is an independent collaboration platform of sixteen academics from diverse disciplines and backgrounds who are affiliated with different institutions in Turkey. Educational activities, especially providing mentorship to younger scholars is an important part of GAR’s mission. Accordingly, GAR has certificate programs on “Method and Ethics in Migration Research” to help younger researchers to find means to solve methodological and ethical challenges they face during fieldwork with a threefold approach of discussing prevalent methods and ethics, rethinking novel methods, and questioning the role of the researcher. Since its foundation, GAR has organized many academic activities ranging from seminar series to certificate programs and summer schools. Recently in June 2019 GAR hosted the IMISCOE PhD summer school on “Studying Integration and Social Cohesion: Theory, Practice, Method and Ethics of Conduct” in Istanbul.



The Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research center at Osnabrück University. It deals with various aspects of spatial mobility and intercultural encounters in past and present. IMIS is a nationally and internationally renowned research institute with members from a variety of disciplines. Founded in 1990, IMIS has explored spatial mobility and intercultural experience from both historical and contemporary angles. Through basic research, publications, public events, and the provision of academic consultation, IMIS seeks to strengthen existing and encourage further interdisciplinary research networks and to hence contribute to the dialogue between science and professional practice.